

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus comprising:

a print head for scanning over a printing medium in a predetermined direction, said print head comprising a printing element set comprising M printing elements for selectively forming dot images on said printing medium, wherein M is a positive integer;

a timing device for, in response to a reference timing sequence and a random value series, generating N sets of driving timing sequences, said random value series including N random values, each of the N sets of driving timing sequences being obtained by shifting said reference timing sequence with corresponding one of N random values, wherein N is a positive integer; and

a driving device for, in response to said N sets of driving timing sequences, forming said dot images, wherein each set of driving timing sequences sequentially drives the M printing elements to provide random distances in the predetermined direction between centers of consecutive dot images formed by the printing element set of the printing head.

16. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said timing device respectively adds N random values to said reference timing sequence to generate said N set of driving timing sequences.

17. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said timing device respectively multiplies N random values to said reference timing sequence to generate said N sets of driving timing sequences.

18. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a unit for generating said random value series, said random value series being transmitted to said timing device via a transmission protocol.

19. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said print head is an ink jet head to perform printing.

20. (Currently Amended) A print method for forming dot images on a printing medium using a print head to scan over said printing medium in a predetermined direction, said print head comprising a printing element set comprising M printing elements wherein M is a positive integer, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a reference timing sequence;

generating N sets of driving timing sequences by shifting said reference timing sequence with a random value series including N random values, wherein N is a positive integer; and

driving said printing element set in response to said N sets of driving timing sequences to form said dot images, wherein distances between centers of consecutive dot images formed by the printing element set of the printing head are random in the predetermined direction.

21. (Previously Presented) The print method according to claim 20, wherein said N random values are respectively added to said reference timing sequence for generating said N sets of driving timing sequences.

22. (Previously Presented) The print method according to claim 20, wherein said N random values are respectively multiplied to said reference timing sequence for generating said N sets of driving timing sequences.

23. (Previously Presented) The print method according to claim 20, wherein said print head is an ink jet head to perform printing.

24. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus comprising:

a print head for scanning over a printing medium in a predetermined direction, the print head comprising at least one printing element;

a timing device for generating a driving timing sequence by shifting a reference timing sequence with a random value; and

a driving device for, in response to said driving timing sequence, driving said printing element to form an image by printing dots on said printing medium;

wherein, with the shifting of said reference timing sequence, a cyclic unevenness of said image is scattered and random distances in the predetermined direction between centers of consecutive dots printed by the at least one printing element of the printing head is provided.

25. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said timing device generates said random value by referencing to a random value sequence.

26. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said timing device adds said random value sequence to said reference timing sequence to generate said driving timing sequence.

27. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said timing device multiplies said random value sequence to said reference timing sequence to generate said driving timing sequence.

28. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said random value sequence is composed of a set of numbers in random order.

29. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a unit for generating said random sequence, said timing device transmitting said random value sequence via a transmission protocol.

30. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said print head is an ink jet head to perform printing.

31. (Previously Presented) The print apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said printing elements are divided into multiple groups, said timing device generating a driving timing sequence for one group of printing elements by shifting the reference timing sequence with a random amount.

32. (Currently Amended) A print method for forming an image on a printing medium using a print head to scan over said printing medium in a predetermined direction, said print head comprising at least one printing element, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

generating a reference timing sequence;

generating a driving timing sequence by shifting said reference timing sequence with a random value; and

driving said printing element with said driving timing sequence to form said image on said printing medium, wherein distances between centers of consecutive dot images formed by the at least one printing element of the printing head are random in the predetermined direction.

33. (Previously Presented) The print method according to claim 32, wherein shifting said reference timing sequence with a random value refers to a random value sequence.

34. (Previously Presented) The print method according to claim 33, wherein said random value sequence is added to said reference timing sequence for generating said driving timing sequence.

35. (Previously Presented) The print method according to claim 33, wherein said random value sequence is multiplied to said reference timing sequence for generating said driving timing sequence.

36. (Previously Presented) The print method according to claim 33, wherein said random value sequence is composed of a set of numbers in random order.

37. (Previously Presented) The print method according to claim 32, wherein said print head is an ink jet head to perform printing.